

# W R A

Fill'd with the sense of age, the fire of youth,  
A scorn of *wrangling*, yet a zeal for truth. *Pope*.  
And all the question, *wrangle* e'er so long,  
Is only this, if God has plac'd him wrong. *Pope*.  
**WRANGLE**. *n. f.* [from the verb.] A quarrel; a perverse dispute.  
The giving the priest a right to the tithes would produce law-suits and *wranglers*. *Swift*.  
**WRANGLER**. *n. f.* [from *wrangle*.] A perverse, peevish, disputative man.  
Tell him he hath made a match with such a *wrangler*,  
That all the courts of France will be disturb'd  
With chafes. *Shakespeare's Henry V.*  
Lord, the house and family are thine,  
Though some of them repine;  
Turn out these *wranglers*, which defile thy seat:  
For where thou dwellest all is neat. *Herbert*.  
You should be free in every answer, rather like well-bred gentlemen in polite conversation, than like noisy and contentious *wranglers*. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind*.  
To **WRAP**. *v. a.* [from *wrap*, Saxon, to turn; *wrefter*, Danish.]  
1. To roll together; to complicate.  
Peter fetch the napkin that was about his head *wrapped* together by itself. *John xx. 7.*  
This said, he took his mantle's foremost part,  
He 'gan the same together fold and *wrap*. *Fairfax*.  
2. To involve; to cover with something rolled or thrown round.  
Nilus opens wide  
His arms, and ample bosom to the tide,  
And spreads his mantle o'er the winding coast:  
In which he *wraps* his queen and hides the flying host. *Dryden*.  
The sword made bright is *wrapped* up for the slaughter. *Ezek.*  
Their vigilance to elude, I *wrapped* in mist  
Of midnight vapour glide obscure. *Milton*.  
Wrap candles up in paper. *Swift's Directions to the Butler*.  
3. To comprise; to contain.  
Leontine's young wife, in whom all his happiness was *wrapped* up, died in a few days after the death of her daughter. *Addison*.  
4. To **WRAP** up. To involve totally.  
Some dear cause  
Will in concealment *wrap* me up a while;  
When I am known aright, you shall not grieve  
Lending me this acquaintance. *Shakespeare's King Lear*.  
King John fled to Lascus, who was careful how to comfort him, *wrapped* up in so many calamities, after the loss of his kingdom. *Kneller's History of the Turks*.  
Things reflected on, in gross and transiently, carry the shew of nothing but difficulty in them, and are thought to be *wrapped* up in impenetrable obscurity. *Locke*.  
5. [It is often corruptly written for *rap* or *rapt*, from *raptus*, Latin.] To snatch up miraculously.  
Whatever things were discovered to St. Paul, when he was *wrapped* up into the third heaven, all the description he makes is, that there are such things as eye hath not seen, ear heard, nor hath entered into the heart of man to conceive. *Locke*.  
6. To transport; to put in ecstasy.  
Much more the reverent fire prepar'd to lay,  
Wrap'd with his joy; how the two armies lay. *Cowley*.  
7. [Perhaps the following passage should properly be *rap'd*, though *wrapped* is now frequently used in this sense.]  
Wrap'd up in silent fear he lies.  
Wrap'd in amaze the matrons wildly stare. *Waller*.  
**WRAPER**. *n. f.* [from *wrap*.]  
1. One that wraps.  
2. That in which any thing is wrapped.  
My arms were pressed to my sides, and my legs closed together by so many *wrappers*, that I looked like an Egyptian mummy. *Addison's Spectator*.  
**WRATH**. *n. f.* [from *wrath*, Saxon; *wrede*, Danish; *wreed*, cruel, Dutch.] Anger; fury; rage.  
Thou dost the prayers of the righteous feed  
Present before the majesty divine,  
And his avenging *wrath* to clemency incline. *Fairy Queen*.  
With one fool's head I came to *wrath*,  
But I go away with two:  
Sweet, adieu! I'll keep my oath,  
Patiently to bear my *wrath*. *Shak. Merch. of Venice*.  
I fear, — left there be debates, envyings, *wraths*, strifes. *Cor.*  
He hop'd not to escape, but thence  
The present, fearing guilty what his *wrath*  
Might suddenly inflict. *Milton*.  
**WRATHFUL**. *adj.* [from *wrath* and *full*.] Angry; furious; raging.  
He cry'd, as raging seas are wont to roar,  
When wintry storm his *wrathful* wreck doth threaten.  
Fly from *wrath*:  
Sad be the fights, and bitter fruits of war,  
And thousand furies wait on *wrathful* swords. *Fa. Queen*.

# W R E

How now, your *wrathful* weapons drawn? *Shakespeare*.  
The true evangelical zeal should abound more in the mild and good natured affections, than the vehement and *wrathful* passions. *Sprat's Sermons*.  
**WRATHFULLY**. *adv.* [from *wrathful*.] Furiously; passionately.  
Gentle friends, *wrathful* not at all.  
Let's kill him boldly, but not *wrathfully*. *Shakespeare*.  
**WRATHLESS**. *adj.* [from *wrath*.] Free from anger.  
Before his feet, so sheep and lions lay,  
Fearless and *wrathless*, while they heard him play. *Waller*.  
To **WREAK**. *v. a.* Old preterite and part. pass. of *wreke*. [from *wreke*, Saxon; *wrechen*, Dutch; *recken*, German.]  
1. To revenge.  
In an ill hour thy foes thee hither sent,  
Another's wrongs to *wreak* upon thy self. *Fairy Queen*.  
Him all that while occasion did provoke  
Against Pyrocles, and new matter fram'd  
Upon the old, him stirring to be *wroke*. *Fairy Queen*.  
Of his late wrongs. *Fairy Queen*.  
Pale death our valiant leader hath oppress'd,  
Come *wreak* his loss, whom bootless ye complain. *Fairfax*.  
2. To execute any violent design. This is the sense in which it is now used.  
On me let death *wreak* all his rage. *Milton*.  
He left the dame,  
Resolv'd to spare her life, and save her shame,  
But that detested object to remove,  
To *wreak* his vengeance, and to cure her love. *Dryden*.  
Think how you drove him hence, a wand'ring exile,  
To distant climes, then think what certain vengeance  
His rage may *wreak* on your unhappy orphan.  
Her husband scourg'd away,  
To *wreak* his hunger on the destin'd prey. *Pope*.  
3. It is corruptly written for *reck*, to heed; to care.  
My master is of churlish disposition,  
And little *wreaks* to find the way to heav'n  
By doing deeds of hospitality. *Shak. As you like it*.  
**WREAK**. *n. f.* [from the verb.]  
1. Revenge; vengeance.  
Fortune, mine avowed foe,  
Her *wrathful* *wreaks* themselves do now allay. *Fa. Queen*.  
Join with the Goths, and with revenged war  
Take *wreak* on Rome for this ingratitude,  
And vengeance on the traitor Saturnine. *Shak. Tit. And.*  
2. Passion; furious fit.  
What and if  
His sorrows have so overwhelm'd his wits,  
Shall we be thus afflicted in his *wreaks*,  
His fits, his frenzy, and his bitterness? *Shak. Tit. And.*  
**WRECKFUL**. *adj.* [from *wreak*.] Revenged; angry.  
Call the creatures,  
Whose naked natures live in all the spite  
Of *wreckful* heaven. *Shakespeare*.  
She in Olympus' top  
Must visit Vulcan for new arms, to serve her *wreckful* son.  
*Chapman's Iliad*.  
**WRECKLESS**. *adj.* [I know not whether this word be miswritten for *wreckless*, careless; or comes from *wreak*, revenge, and means unrevenging.]  
So flies the *wreckless* shepherd from the wolf;  
So first the harmless flock doth yield his fleece,  
And next his throat unto the butcher's knife. *Shak. H. VI.*  
**WREATH**. *n. f.* [from *wreath*, Saxon.]  
1. Any thing curled or twisted.  
The *wreath* of three was made a *wreath* of five: to these three first titles of the two houses, were added the authorities parliamentary and papal. *Bacon's Henry VII.*  
Clouds began  
To darken all the hill, and smoke to roll  
In dusky *wreaths* reluctant flames. *Milton's Par. Lost*.  
He of his tortuous train  
Curl'd many a wanton *wreath*. *Milton*.  
Let altars smok, and richest gums, and spice, and incense roll  
Their fragrant *wreaths* to heav'n. *Smith's Phaed. and Hf.*  
2. A garland; a chaplet.  
Now are our brows bound with victorious *wreaths*,  
Our bruised arms hung up for monuments. *Shak. R. III.*  
Dropp'd from his head, a *wreath* lay on the ground. *Shak. R. III.*  
The boughs of Lotos, form'd into a *wreath*,  
This monument, thy maiden beauty's due,  
High on a plane-tree shall be hung to view. *Dryden*.  
When for thy head the garland I prepare,  
A second *wreath* shall bind Aminta's hair;  
And when my choicest songs thy worth proclaim,  
Alternate verse shall bless Aminta's name. *Prior*.  
To prince Henry the laurels of his rival are transferred, with the additional *wreath* of having conquered that rival. *Shak. care illustrated*.  
To

# W R E

To **WREATH**. *v. a.* preterite *wreathed*, part. pass. *wreathed*, *wreathen*. [from the noun.]  
1. To curl; to twist; to convolve.  
Longaville  
Did never sonnet for her sake compile,  
Nor never laid his *wreathed* arms athwart  
His loving bosom, to keep down his heart. *Shakespeare*.  
About his neck  
A green and gilded snake had *wreath'd* itself,  
Who, with her head, nimble in threats approach'd  
The opening of his mouth; but suddenly,  
Seeing Orlando, it unlinked itself,  
And with indented glides did slip away. *Shak. As you like it*.  
The heard of an oat is *wreathed* at the bottom, and one smooth entire straw at the top: they take only the part that is *wreath'd*, and cut off the other. *Bacon*.  
2. It is here used for *wreath*.  
Impatient of the wound,  
He rolls and *wreath*s his shining body round;  
Then headlong shoots beneath the dashing tide. *Gay*.  
3. To interweave; to entwine one in another.  
Two chains of pure gold of *wreathen* work shalt thou make them, and fasten the *wreathen* chains to the oches. *Ex. xxviii.*  
As snakes breed in dunghills not singly, but in knots; so in such base noisome hearts you shall ever see pride and ingratitude indifferently *wreath'd* and twisted together.  
Here, where the labourer's hands have form'd a bow'r  
Of *wreathing* trees, in singing waste an hour. *Dryden*.  
4. To encircle as a garland.  
In the flow'r that *wreath*s the sparkling bowl,  
Fell adds his, and pois'nous serpents rowl. *Prior*.  
5. To encircle as with a garland.  
For thee she feeds her hair,  
And with thy winding ivy *wreath*s her lance. *Dryden*.  
The soldier, from successful camps returning,  
With laurel *wreath'd*, and rich with hostile spoil,  
Severs the bull to Mars. *Prior*.  
**WREATHY**. *adj.* [from *wreath*.] Spiral; curled; twisted.  
That which is preserved at St. Dennis, near Paris, hath *wreathy* spires, and cochleary turnings about, which agreeth with the description of an unicorn's horn in *Ælian*. *Brown*.  
**WRECK**. *n. f.* [from *wreck*, Saxon, a miserable person; *wracks*, Dutch, a ship broken.]  
1. Destruction by being driven on rocks or shallows at sea; destruction by sea.  
Fair be ye sure; but hard and obstinate,  
As is a rock amidst the raging floods;  
Gainst which a ship, of succour desolate,  
Doth suffer *wreck* both of herself and goods. *Spenser*.  
Like those that see their *wreck*  
Ev'n on the rocks of death; and yet they strain,  
That death may not them idly find attend  
To their uncertain task, but work to meet their end. *Daniel*.  
Think not that flying fame reports my fate;  
I present, I appear, and my own *wreck* relate. *Dryden*.  
2. Dissolution by violence.  
Not only Paradise,  
In this commotion, but the starry cope  
Had gone to *wreck*. *Milton's Paradise Lost*.  
3. Ruin; destruction.  
Whether he was  
Combin'd with Norway, or did line the rebel  
With hidden help and vantage; or that with both  
He labour'd in his country's *wreck*, I know not. *Shakespeare*.  
4. It is misprinted here for *wreck*.  
He cry'd as raging seas are wont to roar,  
When wintry storm his *wrathful* wreck doth threaten. *Spenser*.  
To **WRECK**. *v. a.* [from the noun.]  
1. To destroy by dashing on rocks or sands.  
Have there been any more such tempests, wherein the hath wretchedly been *wrecked*? *Spenser on Ireland*.  
A pilot's thumb,  
If *wreck'd* as homeward he did come. *Shak. Macbeth*.  
The coral found growing upon *wrecked* ships and lost anchors, that are daily dragged up out of the sea, demonstrates that coral continues to be formed to this day. *Woodward*.  
2. To ruin.  
Weak and envy'd, if they should conspire,  
They *wreck* themselves, and he hath his desire. *Daniel*.  
3. In the following passages it is ignorantly used for *wreak*, in its different senses of *revenge* and *execute*.  
Eighty odd years of sorrow have I seen,  
And each hour's joy *wreck'd* with a week of teen. *Shakespeare*.  
I faint! I die! the goddess cry'd:  
O cruel, could'st thou find none other  
To *wreck* thy spleen on? Parricide! *Prior*.  
Like Nero, thou hast slain thy mother. *Prior*.  
To **WRECK**. *v. n.* To suffer wreck. *Prior*.  
With manlier objects we must try,  
His contage, with such as have more flow  
Of worth, of honour, glory, and popular praise,  
Rocks whereon greatest men have often *wreck'd*. *Milton*.

# W R E

**WREN**. *n. f.* [from *wren*, Saxon.] A small bird.  
The poor *wren*,  
The most diminutive of birds, will fight, his back  
Her young ones in her nest, against the owl. *Shak. Macb.*  
All ages have conceived that the *wren* is the least of birds,  
yet the discoveries of America have shew'd us one far less,  
the hum-bird not much exceeding a beetle. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*.  
To **WRENCH**. *v. a.* [from *wrench*, Saxon; *wrenchen*, Dutch.]  
1. To pull by violence; to wrench; to force.  
Wrench his sword from him. *Shak. Othello*.  
Oh form!  
How often dost thou with thy case, thy habit,  
Wrench awe from fools, and tie the wiser souls  
To thy false seeming! *Shak. Measure for Measure*.  
Give me that mattock and the *wrenching* woman. *Shak. Caesar's army*, wanting something, demanded a million or discharge, though with no intention it should be granted; but thought by that means to *wrench* him to their other desires. *Bacon*.  
Sing the Parthian, when transfix'd he lies,  
Wrenching the Roman jav'lin from his thighs. *Dryden*.  
Achilles *wrench'd* it out, and sent again  
The hostile gift. *Dryden*.  
Struggling to get loose, I broke the strings, and *wrenched* out the pegs that fastened my arm to the ground. *Gull Travels*.  
2. To sprain; to distort.  
O most small fault!  
How ugly didst thou in Cordelia show?  
Which, like an engine, *wrench*ed my frame of nature  
From the fix'd place; drew from my heart all love,  
And added to the gall. *Shak. King Lear*.  
You *wrenched* your foot against a stone, and were forced to stay. *Swift*.  
**WRENCH**. *n. f.* [from the verb.]  
1. A violent pull or twist.  
2. A sprain.  
Some small part of the foot being injured by a *wrench*, the whole leg thereby loses its strength. *Locke*.  
3. **WRENCHES**, in *Chaucer*, signifies means, sleights, subtilties; which is, I believe, the sense here.  
He resolv'd to make his profit of this business of Britain, as a quarrel for war; and that of Naples as a *wrench* and mean for peace. *Bacon's Henry VII.*  
To **WREST**. *v. a.* [from *wrest*, Saxon.]  
1. To twist by violence; to extort by writhing or force.  
To wring this sentence, to *wrest* thereby out of men's hands the knowledge of God's doctrine, is without all reason. *Ascham*.  
To what *wretched* state refer'd,  
Better end here unborn! Why is life giv'n,  
To be thus *wrested* from us? *Milton's Paradise Lost*.  
Where you charged in person, you were a conqueror: the rebels afterwards recovered strength, and *wrested* that victory from others that they had lost to you. *Dryden*.  
Our country's cause,  
That drew our swords, now *wrests* 'em from our hand,  
And bids us not delight in Roman blood,  
Unprofitably shed. *Addison's Cato*.  
O prince, I blush to think what I have said;  
But fate has *wrested* the confession from me. *Addison*.  
2. To distort; to writhe; to force.  
So far to extend their speeches, is to *wrest* them against their meaning. *Hooker*.  
My father's purposes have been mistook;  
And some about him have too lavishly  
Wrested his meaning and authority. *Shak. Henry IV.*  
Wrest once the law to your authority;  
To do a great right, do a little wrong. *Shakespeare*.  
**WREST**. *n. f.* [from the verb.]  
1. Distortion; violence.  
Whereas it is concluded, out of those so weak premises, that the retaining of divers things in the church of England, which other reformed churches have cast out, must needs argue that we do not well, unless we can shew that they have done ill: what needed this *wrest*, to draw out from us an accusation of foreign churches? *Hooker*.  
2. It is used in *Spenser* and *Shakespeare* for an active or moving power: I suppose, from the force of a tilter acting with his lance in his rest.  
Adown he kelt it with so puissant *wrest*,  
That back again it did aloft rebound,  
And gave against his mother earth a gronelling sound. *F. 2.*  
Antenor is such a *wrest* in their affairs,  
That their negotiations all must slacken,  
Wanting his manage. *Shak. Troilus and Cressida*.  
**WRESTER**. *n. f.* [from *wrest*.] He who wrests.  
To **WRESTLE**. *v. n.* [from *wrest*.]  
1. To contend who shall throw the other down.  
You have lost the fight of good *wrestling*. *Shakespeare*.  
If ever he goes alone again, I'll never *wrestle* for prize more. *Shak. As you like it*.  
Another,